

TOWN OF ALTON  
DELIBERATIVE SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 3, 2010

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:    Stephen McMahon, Chair  
                                 Patricia Fuller, Vice Chair  
                                 Peter Bolster  
                                 Loring Carr  
                                 David Hussey

BUDGET COMMITTEE:     Karen Painter, Chair  
                                 Gregory Fuller, Vice Chair  
                                 Steve Miller  
                                 Richard MacDonald  
                                 Marc DeCoff

OTHERS PRESENT:        Mark Northridge, Town Moderator  
                                 E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator  
                                 Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk  
                                 James Sessler, Town Attorney  
                                 Krista Argiropolis, Recorder

Mark Northridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed the attendees and announced that the town election to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote will be held on March 9, 2010, at Prospect Mountain High School, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

E. Russell Bailey introduced the members of the Board of Selectmen present at the Head Table, and Karen Painter introduced the members of the Budget Committee present.

Selectman McMahon presented the State of the Town Address on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. He reported that the Annual Town Report is published after the Deliberative Session, so the purpose of the address is to report on highlights from the past year. He reported that the most imposing challenge of 2009 was the effect of the current economic downturn of the century and our local economy. He reported that the objective of the Selectmen is to minimize the financial impact on our taxpayers affected by the difficult financial times. He reported that The Budget Committee has been supportive of the Selectmen's decision concerning the dilemma of "services vs. taxes". He spoke about the compensation of Town employees, reporting that no cost of living increases were given this year to any employee but that a two-year step increase was given to a few eligible employees. In addition, due to the significant increase in the proposed insurance rates, a different insurance group plan was instituted, which shifted some of the cost to the employees. He thanked the Town employees for their dedication and understanding during these times. He spoke about revisions to the Policy Manual, including the investment policy, internal control policy, and the record retention policy. He spoke about town roads and some of the maintenance or reconstruction that has taken place. He discussed the recommendations of the Capitol Improvement Plan Committee to extend the life of our Town equipment. He reported that the trash compactors at the Transfer Station would be replaced and spoke about alternative energy solutions, such as wind power, that the Selectmen are considering. He announced that a new Police Chief had been appointed and a new Fire Chief had been appointed this year, as well. He acknowledged former Fire Chief Alan Johnson, who had passed away in August, and former Selectman Jim Washburn, who passed away at the end of 2008. He thanked the volunteers of our

boards, committees, and commissions, stating that without them they could not accomplish many of the tasks at hand which could be very overwhelming for the Board to manage on their own. He thanked the citizens of Alton for their continued support.

Moderator Northridge welcomed the attendees, and announced that Candidates' Night, sponsored by the Alton Rotary, was scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010. He read the rules of the meeting.

Moderator Northridge stated that Warrant articles one through nine had been presented by the Planning Board at a Public Hearing held before the Town Deliberative Session.

**ARTICLE 10:** *To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Funds with said funds which have no balance or interest.*

Town Buildings	1987
Library Additions	1993
Fire Department Radios	1999
Portable Pump	2000
Water Department Vehicle	2001

Selectman Fuller moved the article and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. Selectman Bolster spoke for the article, explaining that these are four funds that are no longer needed and there is no money in these accounts, but noted they needed to be voted on to be closed. There was no discussion.

Selectman Fuller motioned to restrict Warrant Article 10 for further reconsideration and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 11:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$103,500.00) the purpose of purchasing & equipping three police vehicles SUV to be funded by a grant in the amount of (\$19,235.00) and from the fund balance in the amount of (\$84,265) with no dollars to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 31:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31, 2010 [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0). (A majority vote is required)]*

Selectman McMahon moved the article and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. Selectman Fuller recognized Police Chief Ryan Heath to speak for the article. Chief Heath spoke about fleet management for the Alton Police Department, explaining that there are eight vehicles in their fleet, with only seven vehicles being equipped as police vehicles. He reported on the excessive amount of miles on the vehicles and noted that only two were sufficient for daily patrol. The vehicles that will be replaced all have over 120,000 miles on them, with two of the vehicles having holes in the floors of the cars. He spoke about the safety issues of the vehicles and maintenance expenses.

David St. Cyr noted that the motorcycle was not on the list of vehicles. Chief Heath responded that it was a one-year lease and the department hoped to lease another motorcycle. David St. Cyr noted that he was told that there was no K-9 officer but that he had been stopped by the K-9 officer. Chief Heath stated that there was not an Animal Control Officer but there was a K-9 officer.

Reuben Wentworth asked about the terms of the grant and noted that he would not support this

Warrant article if there was acceptance of AARA grant money. Chief Heath explained it was a "straight up" grant but was not sure if it was an AARA grant. Reuben Wentworth stated he would vote "no" on this unless it was raising money through taxation.

Richard MacDonald asked if the town would be required to keep the officer associated with this grant. Chief Heath responded that this was to raise money for three police cruisers and no officer was included with the grant.

Laurie Boyce asked about who was the administrator of the grant and Chief Heath explained that the County was the administrator of the grant.

Bob Longabaugh asked about the wear on the three vehicles, noting that the three vehicles would be wearing out at about the same time.

Selectman Fuller reported that none of the money for the vehicles would come from taxation and spoke about the money that would come from surplus money.

Reuben Wentworth spoke about his concerns about using the surplus money, reporting that back taxes owed to the town was approximately \$1.7 million dollars.

David St. Cyr noted that the money in the surplus came from tax money raised in the past and asked for clarification on where the money came from. Selectman Fuller explained that the money did not come from new taxes. Selectman Bolster explained that the money in the surplus also helped to set the tax rate each year for the town.

Reuben Wentworth stated that the money was used to offset the tax rate and asked if the Selectmen knew how much the rate would have increased if the money was not in surplus to offset the taxes.

Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict Warrant article 11 for further consideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000.00) to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)***

Selectman Hussey moved Warrant article 12 and Selectman Fuller seconded the motion. Selectman Bolster spoke for the article and reported it was required by the EPA and by DES.

Richard MacDonald asked if there was any contamination found during the monitoring process. Town Administrator Bailey reported that some contamination was found in one abutter's well and reported on the other action that will be taken to further monitor contamination.

Selectmen Carr motioned to restrict Warrant article 13 for further consideration and Selectmen Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for***

*benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Carr moved Warrant article 13 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. Selectman Fuller spoke for the article and explained that this is a Capital Reserve Fund, setup by a recommendation of the town auditor.

Laurie Boyce asked how much was in the fund now. Selectman Fuller reported that there was \$5,627 in the fund now and that if someone retired there could be \$15,000-\$20,000 coming to them now.

Reuben Wentworth asked if there were limits to the accounts. Town Administrator Bailey explained there is a cap on the account.

Selectman Carr motioned to restrict Warrant article 13 for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 14:** *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale of town property listed below and the proceeds to be deposited into a capital reserve for the purpose of building repairs, improvements and expansion. (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Bolster moved Warrant article 14 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. Selectman Carr spoke for the article and explained that the article would set up the process for selling the land.

Steve Miller stated he was in favor of the article and asked if the Town Hall could be exempted from being sold. Attorney Sessler stated that it would take a separate warrant article.

Bob Longabaugh asked if the Selectmen could still sell the property. Selectman Carr responded that it was part of the process that the Selectmen could sell the property but if there were fifty petitioners, they could stop the sale so that there would be a special warrant article.

Jeffrey St. Cyr asked what the Selectmen were looking at now for lots and if they were looking to sell any specific lots. Selectman Carr responded there was not a plan for selling specific lots. Jeffrey St. Cyr asked if the article could be amended and Attorney Sessler responded that the article could not be amended.

Reuben Wentworth spoke against the article and felt that the selling of the land should not be left to the Selectmen.

David Lawrence asked if a right of way could be granted for a piece of land that was landlocked. Attorney Sessler noted that exceptions could be granted but that it wasn't desirable to a piece of land to be totally landlocked.

Selectmen Bolster reported that some of the parcels are small and may only be suitable for a home to be built on them. He felt that it would be more beneficial for the properties to be sold.

Keith Dube spoke about the opportunity he had last year to vote on the purchase of the Twombly property and felt the decision should go before the voters.

Jim Bureau, resident asked for an explanation of the process. Selectman Carr explained the process of the purchase and sale of town property. Jim Bureau asked if the petition of fifty voters could be started at any time and Selectman Carr confirmed that it could be started anytime.

David St. Cyr asked if any lot sizes were identified. Selectmen Carr stated that this would start the process but that no lot sizes were identified. David St. Cyr felt that the landlocked pieces of land would only be desirable to abutters.

Reuben Wentworth spoke against the Warrant article and felt that the Selectmen should not have the power to sell property without a vote from the voters.

Bob Longabaugh spoke about his concerns about releasing the power from the voters and appointing the Selectmen the power to sell property.

Selectman Bolster motioned to restrict Warrant article 14 for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 15:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Fuller moved Warrant article 15 and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. Selectman McMahon spoke for the article and recognized Scott Simonds, Director, Solid Waste Department, to discuss the matter. Scott Simonds reported on the bailing done by the compactors used for recycling.

Richard MacDonald spoke about his concerns about replacing the compactors. Town Administrator, Russ Bailey, explained that the bailers were the ones in the recycling area that were used for cardboard and other items that bring revenue to the town by recycling.

Selectman Fuller motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 16:** *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to enter into a four year lease/purchase agreement for **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** for the purpose of leasing/purchasing /equipping a truck with an aluminum utility body and raise and appropriate the sum of **(\$10,000.00)** for the first years lease payment for that purpose. The lease/purchase agreement must contain an escape (non appropriation) clause. The total amount shall be borne by the water system rate payers and not by general taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 31:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31, 2013. [Recommended by Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)]. (A majority vote is required).*

Selectman Fuller moved Warrant article 16 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. Richard Quindley, Water Commissioner, spoke for the article and explained that this is to replace a truck that had been purchased ten years ago.

Richard MacDonald asked if the cost of this item was going to be paid for by the people who receive town water and Richard Quindley explained that they would have to form a Water District.

Steve Parker asked if the truck was going to have any other uses. Richard Quindley spoke about the uses of the truck, similar to the way it is utilized now.

Reuben Wentworth asked if any costs were going to be passed on to water district customers and Richard Quindley responded that there was a rate increase planned at this time.

Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be added to the Recreation/Grounds Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. This capital reserve is to fund maintenance equipment for the grounds, parks and sidewalks snow removal. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)***

Selectman Hussey moved Warrant article 17 and Selectman Fuller seconded the motion. Kellie Troendle, Recreation/Grounds Maintenance Director, spoke for the article. She described the piece of machinery requested and listed the features and benefits of the machine. Selectman Hussey spoke about the vehicle that was being requested in the article.

Jim Gerros asked what the make and model was of the vehicle. Selectmen Hussey responded it was a Boltek TP-54 and noted that parts for it were available at any parts store.

David St. Cyr asked why the Park and Recreation Department would be maintaining the sidewalks in the town and felt it should be the Highway Department. Selectman Fuller stated it was part of Buildings & Grounds.

Ken Roberts, Director, Highway Department, explained that Building & Grounds plowed the sidewalks because of manpower.

Reuben Wentworth spoke about the size of the wheelbase and noted it was too big for the sidewalks. Selectman Hussey explained that the vehicle articulated, as it could have one wheel on the sidewalk and one on the pavement of the road. Reuben Wentworth asked if the Warrant article was to buy the piece of equipment or if it was to add to the Warrant article. He felt that the Capital Reserve fund could be expended by the Selectmen at any time and felt the Selectmen should have reported they wanted to purchase a piece of equipment.

Keith Dube asked if this piece of equipment was sufficient.

Steve Parker spoke about his concerns of the bandstand at the Bay and felt something should be done about it.

Reuben Wentworth asked how the Selectmen were able to purchase this piece of equipment for \$34,000, when it was on the market for over \$100,000 and felt it might be a 'white elephant'. He spoke about his concerns with the wording of the article and what was really going to be done with the money. Selectman Hussey explained that he is in the business of procuring equipment and had waited three months for this deal. Selectman Carr spoke about a lawsuit that had happened last year in Tilton where someone sued the town because they could not access the sidewalk. He spoke about some of the issues with maintenance of the sidewalks in the past. Reuben Wentworth felt that the Selectmen had not been forthcoming with the way they presented

the article.

Gregory Fuller spoke about a way the article could be amended to include the mention of the piece of equipment.

David St. Cyr spoke about the possible amendment of the article.

Attorney Sessler stated that the piece of equipment could be mentioned at the end of the article but felt it wasn't necessary.

Steve Parker spoke about the condition of the sidewalks and crosswalks in town, and spoke about a specific area of sidewalk. Moderator Northridge called for a point of order.

Richard MacDonald asked if the piece of equipment would be able to fit between some of the fences and poles in the town, especially near the Bay Cemetery. Road Agent Roberts spoke about the benefits of the machine and felt it was unique.

Mark DiVito reported that they had test-driven the machine around the fences at the cemetery and found it to be sufficient.

Laurie Boyce motioned to amend Warrant article 17 to add "the purchase of a Boltek TP-54" to the second sentence of the article. Selectman Fuller seconded the motion. It was noted that the amendment would change the purpose of the article. Laurie Boyce withdrew her motion and Selectman Fuller withdrew her second.

Selectman Carr motioned to amend Warrant article 17 to add the mention of the equipment to the end of the article and Laurie Boyce seconded the motion. Attorney Sessler noted that the mention of the piece of equipment would not be favored by the DRA. Selectman Carr withdrew his motion but Laurie Boyce would not withdraw her second.

Gregory Fuller offered to make the motion to add, "the selectmen proposed to purchase a Boltek TP-54", and Laurie Boyce kept her second. There was brief discussion of the amendment. The vote was called and failed.

Selectman Bolster spoke in favor of the Boltek TP54.

Selectman Fuller motioned to restrict the article for further consideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a milfoil treatment programs and to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7500) to be placed in this fund. Also to vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Milfoil Treatment Program fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (Majority vote is required)***

Selectman Carr moved the article and Selectman McMahon seconded the article. Selectman Bolster spoke for the article. He stated that the lake is the heart of our community and what brings people to Alton. He spoke about some of the problems that milfoil is causing in the lake. He spoke about some of the private businesses, such as local marinas and businesses, that have come in to contribute money to help with Milfoil Treatment.

There was no discussion or comments.

Selectman Carr motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 19:** *To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose Senior Center Building Fund to maintain, improve and expand the facility located on Pearson Road and to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** to be placed in this fund. Also to vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Senior Center Building Fund. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (Majority vote is required)*

Selectman Bolster moved Warrant article 19 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. Selectman Bolster spoke for the article. He reported on the current condition of the Senior Center, and spoke about some of the facility needs. He stated he hoped there would be private contributions to help make improvements.

David St. Cyr stated that this would be a good place to utilize some of the undesignated funds that the town has and felt that \$100,000 could be put forth to improve the center.

Reuben Wentworth asked who would be supervising the work performed at the Senior Center to make sure that the work was completed. Selectman Bolster noted that the Town Administrator, the Senior Center's director, etc., would be present. Reuben Wentworth felt it was important to have someone present to supervise the work being performed.

Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict Warrant article 19 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 20:** *Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Dollars (\$00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Dollars (\$00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)*

Budget Committee Chair Painter moved article 20 and Budget Committee Vice Chair Fuller seconded the motion.

Selectman Fuller motioned to amend the article to read \$5,999,649.00 for the requested operating budget and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. Selectman Fuller reported that the Selectmen were adding in the amount taken out by recommendations made by the Alton Budget Committee in the budget for the Highway Department. This amendment would add in \$11,561.00 for emergency road reconstruction. She reported that there has been an issue with using this budget line item in the past.

Reuben Wentworth spoke about the current state of the economy and felt that the town could not



keep affording the increases in the tax rate. He admonished the Selectmen to work more with less.

Steve Miller, Budget Committee member, spoke about the budget review process and how areas of savings are identified by the Committee. He felt that it was not beneficial to have a discussion on \$11,000 of a \$6,000,000 budget. He spoke about the time the Committee spent in review of the budget.

Selectman Fuller felt that the Budget Committee did not have all the information at the time they voted on the budget line items. She spoke about the review process, noting that the Selectmen had met the recommendations of the Budget Committee in many areas but that they disagreed on this area.

Ken Roberts spoke about some of the cuts made to the budget by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Marc DeCoff, Budget Committee member, asked how much was left over in unencumbered funds at the end of 2009. Town Administrator Bailey responded that approximately \$175,000 was left over.

Karen Painter, Budget Committee Chair, asked if the Selectmen could transfer money within budget line items and Selectman Fuller responded that they could. Karen Painter asked if unencumbered funds could be used to fund emergency road reconstruction and Selectman Fuller responded that they could but they did not prefer to do it. Selectman Fuller spoke about some of the emergency situations that have happened where the budget line item for emergency road reconstruction was utilized. She spoke about the expenditure of funds for repairs and the process of getting money back from FEMA to cover costs.

Chief Heath stated that each department was providing services to the town. He stated that the default budget is a two-year-old budget and noted that the departments would be limited on the services they could provide, due to limitations in the operating budget.

Richard MacDonald stated that the \$11,000 did not begin to cover the cost of the flood washouts and felt the Selectmen should be able to find money in the contingency fund. Selectman Fuller stated that it was not covered one hundred percent by FEMA.

Stephen Miller stated that you did not budget with a worst case scenario in mind and noted that the surplus would help to cover any emergencies.

Budget Committee Chair Karen Painter felt that the budget was sufficient and that there would be funds to cover emergency road reconstruction.

A vote by secret ballot was called. The amendment failed with thirty-nine votes for the amendment and forty-one votes against the article.

Karen Poor motioned to amend Article 20 to increase the requested budget amount by \$20,015, bringing the new total requested to \$6,008,103. Shirley Lane seconded the motion. Karen Poor listed the scope of duties of the caretaker and the justification for the amendment. She felt the caretaker saved the town a significant amount of money and that the funds cut by the Budget Committee should be reinstated.

Budget Committee Chair Painter spoke about the review of the Cemetery Department budget. She

stated it was not the position of the Budget Committee to eliminate a full-time position. She reported on the statistics from the previous year. She reported that Alton is just one of three cemeteries in the New Hampshire that does not have burials year-round but has a full-time caretaker. She urged the voters to vote against the amendment.

Richard MacDonald reported that the Budget Committee had been told that the Cemetery would be paid for by taxation. He reported that a five-year employment contract had been awarded to the caretaker. He spoke about his concern for the trust fund and felt that the trust fund would be built back up by having the Selectmen manage the cemetery.

Stanley Moulton stated the Cemetery Trustees were elected by the people to care for the ancestors and felt that the process worked. He felt that cutting back this budget was not a good idea.

Jane Porter reported she had been a Cemetery Trustee and noted that a Selectman or Budget Committee member had ever come to one of their meetings.

Laurie Boyce spoke in favor of the amendment.

Bob Longabaugh asked how long there had been a full-time employee. Shirley Lane reported that there had been a full-time employee for four years.

Shirley Lane spoke about the history of the trust fund for the cemetery and the cost of expanding the land, maintaining the lots, and other costs. She noted that this is the only department that has only one employee and noted the budget was one of the smallest.

Mike Pinard spoke against the cuts that the Budget Committee had made to the budget for the Cemetery Department.

Jane Porter spoke about her concerns about moving the caretaker around to other departments and felt that his position was justified.

Keith Dube spoke about his own business and keeping an employee during the winter months and the benefits of having a trained, capable staff. There was discussion about the equipment used by the Cemetery Department.

Steve Miller stated that the budget presented was four percent higher than the previous year. He reported that a part-time person had been requested in the previous budget.

Shirley Bishop asked to move the question and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

The vote was called by secret ballot. The amendment passed by a vote of fifty-four in favor and twenty-four not in favor.

The amended article reads:

**ARTICLE 20:** *Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Dollars 6,008,103.00**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Dollars (\$6,025,816.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing*

body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Steve Parker asked if the town could make any repairs to the Alton Bay Bandstand. Selectman Bolster stated that they would take it under advisement.

Selectman Bolster motioned to restrict article 20 for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 21:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars (\$128,597.00) and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$128,597.00 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purpose of the ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies & equipment, training, and vehicle fuel/maintenance. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman McMahon moved article 21 and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. Fire Chief Scott Williams spoke for the article, explaining that the appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and that no funds were raised by taxation. There was no discussion.

Selectman Bolster motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 22:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000) for the replacement/upgrade of the fire boat from one engine to two engines as recommended by the Dealer, to be funded from the fund balance in the amount of \$28,000 and no dollars to be raised by taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 31:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31, 2013. [Recommended by Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)]. (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman McMahon motioned to approve Warrant article 22 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. Selectman Carr spoke for the article and noted that it had come up last year. He spoke about issues with the motor. Fire Chief Williams spoke about the use of the boat, noting that it was generally used as an ambulance. There was no other discussion.

Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 22 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 23:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Hussey moved article 23 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. Road Agent Roberts spoke for the article. He discussed some of the issues with bridges in town and felt this account would prepare the town for replacing bridges.

Bob Longabaugh requested the articles to be grouped together. Moderator Northridge stated he

would be taking the Warrant articles one at a time. There were no other comments.

Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 23 for further reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 24:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve and to be funded by \$50,000 from fund balance and no tax dollars to be raised by taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Carr moved article 24 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. Road Agent Roberts spoke for the article, reporting that it was time to start replenishing the fund. There was no discussion.

Selectman Carr motioned to restrict article 24 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 25:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00) to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$175,049.85. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Bolster moved article 25 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. Road Agent Roberts spoke for the article, listing some of the roads that have been worked on, and discussed the scope of work performed.

Steve Parker asked if Trask Road would be worked on and felt it was a bad road. Road Agent Roberts reported that Trask Road would be surveyed this year to be rebuilt in 2011.

Selectman Carr restricted article 25 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 26:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$8,996.00) for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance, Women, Infants and Children food assistance program (WIC). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Bolster moved article 26 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article. Selectman Bolster motioned to restrict article 26 for further reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion.

**ARTICLE 27:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$7951.00) for the purpose of supporting the VNA Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until*

*completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman McMahon moved article 27 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. Sylvia Countway, of VNA Hospice spoke for the article, noting that there was a thirty percent decrease from the previous year. There was no discussion. Selectman Hussey motioned to restrict article 27 for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$5,100.00) for the purpose of supporting the Community Health and Hospice, which provides visiting nurse, homemaker and hospice services to residents. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)***

Selectman Bolster moved article 28 and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. Alice Calvert spoke for the article. Selectman Bolster spoke about the merger of the VNA with Community Health and Hospice. There was no discussion. Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 28 for reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$2,280.00) for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provide disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)***

Selectman McMahon moved article 29 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article. There was no discussion. Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 29 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities, housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)***

Selectman Hussey moved article 30 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article. There was no discussion. Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 30 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eighty Four Dollars (\$284.00) for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not for profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing***

*appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Carr moved article 31 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article. There was no discussion. Selectman Bolster motioned to restrict article 31 for further reconsideration and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 32:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting the New Beginnings which provides 24 hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operate a shelter and provide counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Bolster moved article 32 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article and there was no discussion. Selectman Hussey motioned to restrict article 32 for reconsideration and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 33:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman McMahon moved article 33 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. Maggie Kutcher(?) spoke for the article and reported that ninety-four Alton citizens had benefitted from the services provided by Genesis. Selectman Carr motioned to restrict article 33 for further reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 34:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Caregivers Transportation which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman McMahon moved article 34 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. Marybee Longabaugh spoke for the article. There was no discussion. Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 35:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is*

required)

Selectman Hussey moved article 35 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article and there was no discussion. Selectman Hussey motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 36:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00) for the purpose of supporting Appalachian Mountain Teen Project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Hussey moved article 36 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article. Laurie Boyce asked if the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project was through the school and Selectman Bolster explained the objective of the project. Selectman Hussey motioned to restrict the article for further reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion.

**ARTICLE 37:** *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the purpose of supporting Child and Family Services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)*

Selectman Carr moved article 27 and Selectman McMahon seconded the article. Patricia Williams spoke for the article. Selectman Hussey motioned to restrict the article for reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 38:** *To see if the voters will support the development of a non-motorized bike/walking recreational trail along the town property from Depot Road to Route 28 by the traffic light. The project material cost would be funded by donations and labor, a combination of volunteers and town resources. (A majority vote is required.)*

Selectman Bolster moved article 38 and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. Selectman Bolster spoke for the project. Judy Fry spoke about the project and the work done by volunteers, including the funding of the projects.

Heather Corriveau spoke about her concerns about the recreational trail along town property from Depot Road to Route 28.

Kim Patterson spoke about the lack of communication from the committee about the proposed warrant article and noted that she had not heard about this proposed walkway.

Lenell Digiovanni spoke about her concerns about safety, privacy, and other issues with the walkway.

Mark Laurion spoke about issues with the property line. He discussed the layout of the proposed path and felt it was not a good idea.

Stanley Moulton noted that town resources was already listed in the article and felt that someone could amend the article to remove the wording town resources.

E. Russell Bailey motioned to restrict article 38 for further reconsideration and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. A standing vote was taken. The vote failed.

Steve Miller asked to revisit Warrant article 38 and Marc DeCoff seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

Steve Miller motioned to amend Warrant article 38 by adding the word "not" to the first sentence and deleting the second sentence of the article. Marc DeCoff seconded the motion.

Heather Corriveau spoke about issues with deeds and felt that there was confusion between the Belknap County Registry and the deeds that the land owners had at this time.

Steve Miller motioned to withdraw his motion and Marc DeCoff withdraw his second.

\_\_\_\_\_ presented an amendment. There was no second. There was discussion about the amendment and it was felt that it was confusing. There was discussion about possible amendments.

Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 38 for reconsideration and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 39:** *We the undersigned, being voters in the Town of Alton hereby petition the Board of Selectmen of said town to place the following article on the warrant for the 2010 annual meeting:*

*"To see if the town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Town Beach capital reserve of \$25,000. by expanding its use to allow for maintenance of the Town Beach and Harmony Park." (2/3 vote required).*

Selectman Carr moved article 39 and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. Selectman Bolster spoke for the article and reported on the ways the money could be used to maintain the existing town beach and Harmony Park.

Gregory Fuller, Alton Budget Committee, asked what would be done with the remaining money in the account. Selectman Bolster stated they would have to check with DRA.

Karen Painter, Alton Budget Committee Chair, asked if this article was brought before the voters last year. Selectman Bolster noted it had been.

Selectman Carr motioned to restrict article 39 for reconsideration and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

**ARTICLE 40:** *We the undersigned, being voters in the Town of Alton hereby petition the Board of Selectman of said town to place the following article on the warrant for the 2010 annual meeting:*

*"Shall we delegate the duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Trustees to the Board of Selectmen?"*

*If the majority vote in the affirmative then the delegation shall take effect 90 days after adoption and shall continue until rescinded by vote of the town meeting.*



Selectman McMahon moved article 40 and Selectman Carr seconded the motion.

Stanley Moulton asked why the article could not be amended. Attorney Sessler confirmed that it could not be amended.

Marybee Longabaugh asked if the selectmen would be able to spend the money in the trust fund and Town Administrator Bailey stated that they had reviewed it with the DRA.

Selectman Bolster spoke from the floor and spoke for the Cemetery Department. He spoke about the current set up of the department and felt that a "meat axe approach" should not be taken. He felt that there was no need to change the current situation but felt that more communication was needed between the Cemetery Trustees, Selectmen, and Budget Committee.

Richard MacDonald stated that the Cemetery Department would still be taken care of and felt that the trustees should not have been able to purchase an excavator without approval by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Carr motioned to restrict article 40 for further consideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 41:** We, the following duly registered voters in the Town of Alton, do hereby respectfully submit the following question to be acted upon by the voters of said town at the next annual election:*

*"To see if the Town will vote to put into place a restriction that the salaries of the Town Selectmen- including and not limited to Cost of Living Allowances(COLA's) – can only be changed by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting. Such determination will be by written ballot"*

Bob Longabaugh moved article 41 and Marybee Longabaugh seconded the article. Bob Longabaugh spoke for the article and reported that the Selectmen voted themselves a raise at a work session in April, 2009. Steve Miller stated it was not about the amount of money but that the Selectmen voted themselves a raise. Selectman McMahon spoke about the cost of living increases given to employees and noted that it was for three percent. Selectman McMahon motioned to restrict article 41 for reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 42:** We the undersigned registered voters of Alton, New Hampshire, hereby petition the Board of Selectman to include as a Warrant Article at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, the following:*

*To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and Senate President.*

*Resolved: The Citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage".*

Selectman McMahon moved article 42 and Selectman Carr seconded the motion. There was no one to speak for the article. Selectman Carr motioned to restrict article 42 for reconsideration and Selectman Hussey seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

***ARTICLE 43:** To hear any reports of any committee, board, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and to vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other*

*business that may legally come before said meeting.*

Selectman Carr moved article 43 and Selectman McMahon seconded the motion. Moderator Northridge noted that this would be decided on March 9, 2010 at voting. Selectman McMahon motioned to adjourn and Selectman Bolster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis  
Recorder